

Public Works Committee Meeting
January 29, 2008

Item #1

ORDERED THAT the Public Works Committee hold a public hearing to discuss the City-wide Slope Stabilization Project.

Item #2
Minutes



CHICOPEE BOARD OF ALDERMEN PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

ACCEPTED 2-25-08

MEMBERS

Frederick Krampits, Chairman
Chuck Swider, Vice-Chairman
Dino Brunetti
Ron Belair
Jean Croteau

MINUTES January 29, 2008

The following are the minutes of a public hearing held Tuesday, January 29, 2008 at 7:30 PM at City Hall, Aldermanic Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex.

Members Present Krampits, Swider, Brunetti, Croteau

Members Absent Belair

Also Present Stanley Kulig (DPW Engineer)

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

ITEM #1 ORDERED THAT the Public Works Committee hold a public hearing to discuss the City-wide Slope Stabilization Project.

Stanley Kulig stated that it is required that the City has a public hearing of the Slope Stabilization Fund and this will be paid through a state revolving loan fund.

Stan then stated around the City of Chicopee there are 23 sites that are affected by this problem. End Street, off of Montcalm is losing the side of its hill as well as many other sites that are having erosion problems. The larger problems are occurring mostly in the northern sandy areas. He stated that Montcalm is now the worst.

Dave Partridge showed the committee a picture of himself holding a 25ft rod about 8 or 9ft above the hill on Montcalm Street. He stated the reason why they can see the poles is due to the erosion happening in this area.

Stan stated water keeps running through and eroding this more and more. As they did inventory they packaged 23 sites and basically want to stem the tide of the Slope Stabilization Project. He also stated that this is a 3 million dollar project and if it's not done this year then next year it will cost 3.5mil and so on.

Dave stated on Exchange Street there is an overflow that come through the pipe and then goes into the Connecticut River area.

Stan stated there have been 3 sink holes and the pipe is so terrible that there have been 3 pipe failures in the last 5yrs. He also stated this needs to be fixed and need to make sure the pipe under the railroad tracks does not fail or else there will be even larger problems. Their plan is to line the pipes.

Dave stated most of the erosion occurring is from bad pipes not from ground water. There are corrugated metal pipes that were made in the 50's and 60's and they are very rusty. The sand comes up from the bottom of the pipe and it becomes a combination of leaks in the pipe and where the pipe has shifted.

Stan then stated it has been getting worse and worse. When one piece of pipe falls off, the next piece does and it keeps moving back.

Alderman Swider asked when talking about lining the pipes, how will the eroded pipe be replaced?

Dave and Stan informed the committee it is called a "slip lining" or "re-lining" flexible pipe liner. First material is sent through the existing pipe like a balloon which looks like an athletic tube sock. Then hot water is sent through with the material which then will cure the walls to expand the existing pipe which will form a structural pipe inside the existing pipe.

Alderman Croteau asked, for 3 million dollars, how many sites can be fixed?

Stan answered they are hoping for 15 or 16 sites. He then explained this winter they worked on Irene Street. He also stated the Public Storage on Sheridan Street was put on the bottom of the list because it did not seem that bad, it is not touching any property and it is located in the woods. He said they are going to get as much work done as possible and are hoping to go and start this spring. They are only waiting on one last approval.

Stan then stated that on the list are: 2 on Pondview Drive, lower Exchange Street, Montcalm Street, 2 on Irene Street, Behind Chicopee Electric Light..

Dave and Stan then explained that behind Chicopee Electric Light, underneath the railroad tracks that aren't being used there is a pipe that comes from Chicopee Street from Bemus Pond. The railroad tracks are actually just hanging there. It is completely eroded and if someone were to fall through the tracks they would drop about 10ft below.

Stan finished his list starting with Jamrog Drive, 2 on Fletcher Circle but took one off because it is not in bad shape, Telegraph Ave, Roberts Pond Lane, Pembroke Place and Andover Road.

Stan stated that when they get into these areas, such as Roberts Pond, it is going to be difficult because they tried walking through there already and it was very mucky and wet to the point that they were sinking up to their thighs.

Dave stated 2 years ago the pond was filled with water but since then this is what has happened.

Stan stated this project they would just not be able to do because they would need access to tools they don't have.

Dave also stated the locations of these are behind houses that are extremely steep. It is impossible to go down them without ripping apart the slope.

Stan stated they can not access this problem from the top either; they would have to come in from the side of Pondview Drive. The pond is now completely gone. He also said this is the start of something big.

Alderman Krampits asked If Roberts Pond was ever to be put back into its glory, would some of these things have to be undone?

Stan answered it would take millions of dollars to ever bring it back to any resemblance of what it once was.

Alderman Croteau asked if once these areas are fixed, would it then be to our benefit for the City to take this land

Stan answered once these 4 areas are fixed it has nothing to do with the damn itself. The gatehouse and the spill way at the damn is where the big money is but also big liabilities.

Alderman Brunetti stated he used to live on Laramie Street and there was a pipe that used to flood. He then asked does that go with the Fairview Sewer Separation

Stan answered no but that there is a pipe that comes down with an erosion problem but not as bad.

Alderman Brunetti said okay but asked if that involved too

Stan answered they have Area 7, which is Cyran Street. Hopefully they get that one but may not.

Dave stated that it is not a big threat.

Stan then stated that it is something that has to get done eventually but this area is not one of the worst and so that is the project. He stated they haven't talked about it in detail but have talked about Slope Stabilization over the years with various Aldermen. Stan said they are going to spend the money here in backyards and some places aren't that visible but areas that the people who live here are being impacted by. He finished with they are going to put a bid package together.

Alderman Swider asked if it made sense to include some of these are the bottom of the list?

Stan answered yes; they are all going to be included as we are going to bid then on a base bid and then all of these things will be bid as alternates. We then are going to add them together and we can take them off if we don't have enough money.

Dave included that they can not pick and choose which sites get done. He stated they can only knock them off by order of priority.

Alderman Brunetti asked if it was them who prioritized the sites

Stan and Dave both answered yes. They also stated the first sites they talked about, Montcalm and Lower Exchange Street are definitely going to happen. But they will be bidding all sites and will prioritize them after they have been bid on where they will then keep adding sites until the limit is hit.

Motion made by Alderman Croteau to Approve in agreement with presentation presented.

Alderman Swider (on lower Exchange Street) asked if it will disrupt any businesses

Dave answered no it will be quiet and slow moving.

Alderman Brunetti asked if the Aldermen will be updated

Stan answered absolutely. When this goes up for bid, the Aldermen will know when. It will be part of their update that the Aldermen get all the time along with any other information.

Alderman Swider seconded motion.
Motion Passed. 4-0 favorable

Item #2 Minutes - October 4, 2007

Motion made by Alderman Croteau to accept.
Seconded by Alderman Swider
Motion Passed. 4-0 favorable

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 PM